

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BB

SUBJ: NSC- IG/ ARA DECISION MEMORANDUM ON BARBADOS CASP:
RE PEACE CORPS

FOR ARA/ CAR

1. UNNUMBERED DECISION MEMORANDUM OF NSC- IG/ ARA FEBRUARY 27, RE BARBADOS CASP FOR FY 74-75 RECEIVED HERE TODAY. DECISION MEMORANDUM STATED THAT ON " FEBRUARY 27, 1973 NSC- IG/ ARA REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE BARBADOS CASP AS MODIFIED BY CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE PRE- IG AND THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS." EMBASSY HAS NO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FIRST TWO DECISIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES, CONCERNING GIST OF WHICH EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED IN STATE 031642 ON SUGGESTED PRE- CHANGES, AND IN APRIL LETTER FROM BURKE TO AMBASSADOR. THIRD DECISION, HOWEVER, CONCERNING PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES CAME AS SOMEWHAT OF A SURPRISE TO EMBASSY. WE FULLY REALIZE IT WAS NOT MAJOR ISSUE AND HENCE NOT MENTIONED EARLIER COMMUNICATION.

2. THE BARBADOS CASP (PAGE 27) I A 9 STATED " CONTINUE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN BUT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PCV' S TO A MAXIMUM OF 150." REFERENCED DECISION MEMORANDUM STATES " PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES. THE IG SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED THE CASP RECOMMENDATION OF A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN NOT TO EXCEED AN AVERAGE OF 140 VOLUNTEERS."

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3. SINCE LAST OCTOBER WE HAVE BEEN TALKING IN TERMS OF A MAXIMUM OF 150 AT ANY GIVEN TIME EXCEPT FOR TRAINING PERIODS. THE QUESTION HAS BEEN OF SOME IMPORTANCE HERE, SINCE THE PEACE CORPS HAS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NOT YET ACCEPTED ANY LIMITATION PLACED ON NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS. (LETTER APRIL 6 TO PEDERSON FROM HESS IN REPLY TO CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND PEACE CORPS OFFICIALS DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH WHICH STATED INTER- ALIA, " THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 150 VOLUNTEERS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN AREA AT ANY GIVEN TIME EXCEPT FOR TRAINING PERIODS, WHEN NEW ARRIVAL AND PROJECTED DEPARTURES MAY OVERLAP. THIS VIEW WAS ENDORSED BY THE NSC- IG/ ARA LAST MONTH WHEN THE BARBADOS CASP WAS CONSIDERED."

3. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MAXIMUM OF 150 AT ANY GIVEN TIME EXCEPT TRAINING PERIODS WHICH HAS BEEN THE BASIS OF ALL DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT SINCE LAST OCTOBER, AND THE ACTUAL DECISION WHICH REFERRED TO PEACE CORPS PROGRAM NUMBERS " NOT TO EXCEED AN AVERAGE OF 140 VOLUNTEERS." PERHAPS THE NUMBER 140 IS A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR OR PERHAPS THE WORD AVERAGE WAS USED AS A SHORT VERSION OF " AT ANY GIVEN TIME EXCEPT FOR THE TRAINING PERIODS," OR PERHAPS A PRE- IG OR IG MEETING WAS ACTUALLY THINKING IN DIFFERENT TERMS.

4. THIS SUBJECT IS OF CONTINUING IMPORTANCE TO ME HERE IN ATTEMPTING TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE PEACE CORPS NUMBERS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COUNTRY TEAM AS WELL AS THE PEACE CORPS, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED ACTION RESPONSIBILITY BY THE DECISION MEMORANDUM. I WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDING BY ANYBODY AS TO ACTUAL NSC POLICY VIS- A- VIS PEACE CORPS NUMBERS.
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